

CLAIMS:

1. A retardation film comprising:
 - (A) a cycloolefin resin, and
 - (B) inorganic particles which have a longer diameter
- 5 and a shorter diameter and exhibit shape anisotropy, a refractive index of which in the longer diameter direction is larger than an average refractive index of which in the direction crossing the longer diameter direction at right angles and which exhibit birefringence,
- 10 wherein the inorganic particles (B) are orientated, and the retardation film has a difference in refractive index between the film plane direction and the film thickness direction.
- 15 2. The retardation film as claimed in claim 1, wherein a phase difference (R_0) in the film in-plane direction is in the range of 10 to 1000 nm.
- 20 3. The retardation film as claimed in claim 1, wherein a phase difference (R_{th}) in the film thickness direction is in the range of 10 to 1000 nm.
4. The retardation film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inorganic particles (B) have crystalline

property and have an average longer diameter of not more than 2 μm .

5. The retardation film as claimed in claim 1,
5 wherein the inorganic particles (B) have crystalline property and have a ratio (L/D) of a longer diameter (L) to a shorter diameter (D) of not less than 2, and the longer diameter direction of the inorganic particles (B) is arranged in substantially parallel to the film plane.

10

6. The retardation film as claimed in claim 1, which is produced by stretching.

7. A retardation film comprising the retardation
15 film of claim 1 and a transparent conductive film.

8. A polarizing plate obtained by laminating a protective film (a), a polarizing film (b) and a protective film (c) one upon another in this order,
20 wherein the protective film (a) and/or the protective film (c) is the retardation film of claim 1.

9. A liquid crystal display device having the retardation film of claim 1.

10. A liquid crystal display device having the polarizing plate of claim 8.